

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1970



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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1970 – 1971

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

MR. P. R. HEDLEY, 7 Blackstone Road, Wallingford, Berks.

DR. O. C. WILKINSON, Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford, Berks.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. C. F. W. HARRISON, 20 Priory Road, Wantage, Berks.

MRS. S. M. MULLIN, 28 Fyfield Close, Wantage, Berks.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. D. G. HOLMES, 137 Park Road, Didcot, Berks.

CAPT. C. W. MAYNE, Broomsticks, West Hagbourne, Didcot, Berks.

MR. E. WILLIAMS, 71 Oxford Crescent, Didcot, Berks.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. R. B. DOTTRIDGE, Turnpike House, Blewbury, Didcot, Berks.

MR. E. C. GOLBY, High Street, Compton, Newbury, Berks.

MR. W. J. MARTIN, 3 Parkside Bungalows, East Challow, Wantage, Berks. (*Vice-Chairman*).

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MR. T. P. LAWRENCE, Glebe House, Fawley, Wantage, Berks.

DR. A. G. WALTER, Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford, Berks. (*Chairman*).

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

R. R. WRIGHT, Municipal Offices, Stone Hall, Wallingford, Berks.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

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Secretary

MRS. E. L. FUDGE

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WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

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Public Health Inspector

S. J. A. HALL, M.A.P.H.I.

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Telephone 3211

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
STONE HALL,
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1970. It includes, as usual, the information requested by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The estimated population of the Combined District was 58,930 or 470 more than last year. As there were 1,052 live births during the year and 613 deaths, this means that an estimated 31 more people moved into the District than out of it. Next year we shall have available the accurate figures from the 1971 census, which will be much more reliable.

There was again a fall in the number of live births, 1,052 compared with 1,146 in 1969. The reduction was fairly evenly spread over all four districts and is in line with national statistics. There is, however, still a long way to go before the excessive growth of the population is checked. While we must recognise that this is a world wide problem, each country must find its own solution and indeed, so must each individual. Properly planned families would seem to be a good beginning and the expansion of family planning facilities is most welcome. What is of even greater importance is getting advice and help to those who most need it and who are generally least likely to seek it. Here, I think, the health visitors and domiciliary units of the service will have an increasingly important role.

Illegitimate live births again showed a slight fall from the previous year (54 compared with 59), but the rate per 1,000 total live and still births remained the same at 51. The national rate fell slightly from 84 to 83. No doubt the Abortion Act has helped in some small measure to achieve this improvement.

There were 15 stillbirths (1 illegitimate) during the year, a small increase on last year's figure and sufficient to raise the stillbirth rate above the national figure (14.3 per 1,000 total births compared with 13 per 1,000 total births). On its own this is of little significance, however. The more important perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths + deaths of infants under 1 week) remained the same as last year (20 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) compared with

a national figure of 23 per 1,000. The infant mortality rate (deaths under 12 months of age per 1,000 live births) was down to 8 (16 last year) compared with a national rate of 18.2. In fact, there were 8 such deaths (all legitimate infants): 7 were under 1 week old; 1 was between 1 and 4 weeks' old.

There were 9 fewer deaths in 1970 than in 1969 and the corrected death rates for all four districts were well below the national rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population. Of the total of 613 deaths over half, 310, were due to diseases of the heart and circulation (including strokes) and of these 168 were caused by coronary artery disease (14 less than last year). There is little to comment upon in this table except possibly the large number of deaths due to motor vehicle accidents. There were 14 of these, which is 2.3 % of all deaths in the District.

There was a large increase in the number of notifications of infectious diseases during 1970 (331 compared with 81 in 1969). This was mainly due to the increased incidence of measles following a temporary falling off in measles immunisation. Since the immunisation rate has improved again, notifications have fallen once more to a satisfactorily low level. The 30 cases of salmonella food poisoning were partly due to the milk-bourne outbreak which I reported last year and partly due to several small family outbreaks which were not traced to any specific source. There was a marked fall in the number of cases of dysentery (3 compared with 43 in 1969) because there were no outbreaks during the year. The 42 cases of scarlet fever was the highest number notified since 1960, when there were 50; all were from the Wantage half of the District but the figures have no special significance.

The appointment, during the year, of a third public health inspector to Wantage Rural District was followed early in 1971 by a resolution of the Wallingford Rural District Council also to increase its establishment to 3 inspectors. Although an appointment has not yet been made to the latter post, these increases of staff are of great significance as they reflect public concern about environmental hazards and a realisation of the vital role which is played by public health staff in their control. The two councils concerned are to be congratulated on their decisions.

Berkshire County Council has once again voted in favour of dental decay. In relation to fluoridation, all other factors are now irrelevant. Mountains of literature have accumulated, the sum total of the contents of which proves absolutely that there is no valid reason for inflicting upon our children the agonies of avoidable dental caries. It seems incredible to me that any thinking man or woman can view the matter in any other way. What conceivable justification can there be for condemning future generations to totally unnecessary suffering, when it can so easily be prevented? The knowledge of the heritage we are handing on to our successors

is hard enough for us to live with—must we add to the long list of our shortcomings that of inhumanity? In any event why should the County Council reject one of the fundamental principles of democracy by turning down a measure which has the support of all but one of its District Councils?

I feel obliged to make some comment upon sex education in schools. When this was introduced, a dozen or so years ago, I agreed entirely with the procedure. It involved no more than one or two talks, at suitable ages, by health visitors, who were able to answer questions and relieve anxieties and so do a good deal of good. But sex is a natural function and there is no need for elaborate techniques which might be appropriate for latin or mathematics. Not every child is a pachydermatous extrovert and I shudder to think of the effect upon the more sensitive children if they have to watch films on the subject which are made with too much enthusiasm and too little commonsense. Most children are, in any event, perfectly well able to work out their own problems related to sex. For those who do need help, it is already available, if parents cannot themselves provide it, from teachers or health department staff. There is no need for educationists to keep probing farther and farther along this particular slippery path.

The Didcot Health Centre will be open by the time this report is published. The first purpose-built Health Centre in Berkshire, it will incorporate a full range of local authority medical, dental and social services and also house one of the general practices of the town. It is hoped that a start will be made on the similar Health Centre for Wantage in 1972 and its completion is expected in 1973.

I wish, as always, to express my thanks to all my colleagues and to the members of the Joint and four District Public Health Committees for their help and advice during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

June, 1971.

POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1969	1970	
Wallingford Borough	760	6,110	6,190	+80
Wantage Urban	2,797	8,060	8,030	—30
Wallingford Rural	21,790	23,940	24,060	+120
Wantage Rural	72,781	20,350	20,650	+300
Combined Districts	98,128	58,460	58,930	+470

LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births in 1970			Crude Birth rate per 1,000 population		Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1969	1970	1969	1970
Wallingford Borough	47	42	89	17.0	14.4	15.8	13.4
Wantage Urban	73	58	131	19.2	16.3	19.4	16.5
Wallingford Rural	236	221	457	20.0	19.0	20.4	19.4
Wantage Rural	209	166	375	20.1	18.2	19.1	17.3
Combined Districts	565	487	1,052	19.6	17.9		
England and Wales			784,482	16.3	16.0	16.3	16.0

STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of still births		Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	1969	1970	1969	1970
Wallingford Borough	2	2	19.0	22.0
Wantage Urban	1	3	6.0	22.0
Wallingford Rural	6	6	12.0	13.0
Wantage Rural	3	4	7.0	11.0
Combined Districts	12	15	10.4	14.3
England and Wales	10,662	10,341	13.0	13.0

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum									
	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Wallingford Borough	2	4	3	5	5	4	5	3	6	4
Wantage Urban	6	8	5	3	7	6	8	4	9	5
Wallingford Rural	15	19	28	23	25	18	37	30	30	30
Wantage Rural	11	17	17	15	17	20	16	25	14	15
Combined Districts	34	48	53	46	54	48	66	62	59	54
Rate per 1,000 total live births (Combined Districts)	39	47	53	40	46	40	56	49	51	51
Rate per 1,000 total live births (England and Wales)	59	66	69	72	77	79	84	85	84	83

TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of deaths 1970			Crude death rate per 1,000 population		Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	1969	1970	1969	1970
Wallingford Borough	45	51	96	16.9	15.5	9.8	9.6
Wantage Urban	35	51	86	12.7	10.7	12.4	9.6
Wallingford Rural	136	125	261	10.3	10.8	9.3	9.8
Wantage Rural	95	75	170	8.4	8.2	10.7	10.5
Combined Districts	311	302	613	10.6	10.4		
England and Wales			575,208	11.9	11.7	11.9	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY

District	No. of infant deaths under 12 months of age		Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	
	1969	1970	1969	1970
Wallingford Borough	3	3	29	34
Wantage Urban	1	1	6	8
Wallingford Rural	10	2	21	4
Wantage Rural	5	2	12	5
Combined Districts	19	8	16	8
England and Wales	14,397	14,269	18	18

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION
TRIPLE ANTIGEN 1970

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	Total
Wallingford Borough							
Primary Course	9	54	10	2	4	—	79
Booster	—	34	18	4	6	—	62
Wallingford Rural							
Primary Course	11	286	14	—	—	—	311
Booster	—	—	124	12	3	4	143
Wantage Urban							
Primary Course	29	71	10	3	—	—	113
Booster	—	—	41	5	—	—	46
Wantage Rural							
Primary Course	62	251	2	3	—	—	318
Booster	—	—	118	12	—	—	130
Combined Districts	111	696	337	41	13	4	1,202

DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION 1970

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	Total
Wallingford Borough							
Primary Course	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Booster	—	—	—	12	102	6	120
Wallingford Rural							
Primary Course	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Booster	—	—	—	8	361	31	400
Wantage Urban							
Primary Course	—	—	—	3	4	—	7
Booster	—	—	—	7	74	2	83
Wantage Rural							
Primary Course	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Booster	—	—	—	45	272	8	325
Combined Districts	—	—	—	75	817	50	942

SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1970

District	9-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Over 15 years	Total
Wallingford Borough						
Primary	—	43	49	8	7	107
Re-Vacc	—	—	—	8	11	19
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	—	210	198	20	3	431
Re-Vacc	—	—	11	14	105	130
Wantage Urban						
Primary	—	63	62	4	—	129
Re-Vacc	—	—	3	68	17	88
Wantage Rural						
Primary	—	168	177	3	9	357
Re-Vacc	—	—	—	56	33	89
Combined Districts	—	484	500	181	185	1,350

ORAL POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	Total
Wallingford Borough							
Primary Course	8	52	8	—	—	—	68
Booster	—	—	33	8	92	9	142
Wallingford Rural							
Primary Course	10	277	13	—	3	4	307
Booster	—	—	122	10	359	18	509
Wantage Urban							
Primary Course	28	71	9	—	—	—	108
Booster	—	—	40	4	76	—	120
Wantage Rural							
Primary Course	65	246	—	2	—	1	314
Booster	—	—	112	8	270	7	397
Combined Districts	111	646	337	32	800	39	1,965

B.C.G. VACCINATION

School	Number positive at first skin test			Number Vaccinated		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Wallingford Grammar	3	5	2	50	50	52
Blackstone County Sec.	5	7	9	74	67	96
King Alfred's Grammar	1	4	*	49	30	*
Icknield County Sec.	3	4	2	74	76	75
Didcot Girls' Grammar	2	5	*	36	52	*
St. Birinus County Sec.	2	4	3	78	91	87
Cranford House P.N.E.U.	—	—	1	25	—	19
Segsbury	2	3	*	60	54	*
The Downs	1	1	2	56	58	64
St. Frideswides' Cnty. Sec.	3	4	5	83	87	109
Total	22	37	24	585	565	502

*Sessions postponed until 1971

MEASLES VACCINATION

District	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-15 years	Others under 16	Total
Wallingford Borough	—	62	21	7	80	—	170
Wallingford Rural	—	209	177	141	219	38	784
Wantage Urban	—	77	23	43	74	—	217
Wantage Rural	—	162	153	59	156	41	571
Combined Districts	—	510	374	250	529	79	1,742

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Wfd. Boro	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1970	Total 1969
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute meningitis	—	—	2	1	3	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	1	1	3	43
Food Poisoning	2	4	23	1	30	15
Infective jaundice	2	2	—	2	6	5
Leprosy	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leptospirosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	5	150	9	63	227	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	2
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	15	—	27	42	2
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	3	8	7	18	12
Typhoid fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	1	—	2	—
Yellow fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	175	44	102	331	81

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Wallingford Borough		Wantage U.D.		Wallingford R.D.		Wantage R.D.		Combined Districts	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	1970	1969
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis, other than respiratory, including late effects	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—	—	1	2	1	2	1	10	11
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	2	—	2	3	4	3	4	19	24
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—	1	—	10	1	6	—	20	20
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	—	2	—	4	—	2	9	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1
Leukaemia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1
Other malignant neoplasms	3	3	4	5	5	3	7	4	34	4
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	28
Diabetes mellitus	—	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	2	1
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	—	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	7	4
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	5	2
Hypertensive disease	1	2	—	1	1	1	—	2	6	1
Ischaemic heart disease	7	5	13	11	40	47	30	15	168	8
Other forms of heart disease	1	3	—	2	4	3	6	5	24	182
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	6	2	1	9	4	4	2	30	29
Anaemias	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	5	1
Other diseases of blood	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—

Cerebrovascular disease	5	8	13	4	9	13	13	16	29	7	11	18	73	85
Other diseases of nervous system	1	3	4	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	—	1	9	4
Influenza	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	3	2	1	3	7	3
Pneumonia	7	6	13	2	3	5	9	9	18	5	8	13	49	56
Bronchitis and emphysema	4	—	4	2	—	2	6	4	10	6	1	7	23	24
Asthma	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	3	6
Peptic ulcer	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	2	5	8
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	3	7
Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Other diseases of digestive system	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	4	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	2	—	2	2	6	7
Congenital anomalies	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	10
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	2	1	3	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	5	7
Other causes of perinatal mortality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	4
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	2	—	2	2	3	5	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	4
Mental disorders	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	—	4	3
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	2
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	10	4	—	4	14	2
All other accidents	—	2	2	—	1	1	2	7	9	1	—	1	13	13
Suicide and self inflicted injuries	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	—	—	—	5	7
All other external causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	1	3	—
Total	45	51	96	35	51	86	136	125	261	95	75	170	613	622

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Centre	Address and when held
Aston Tirrold	Village Hall; First Tuesday, 10—11 a.m. (Advisory only).
Blewbury	Parish Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4 p.m. (Advisory only).
Brightwell	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 3.0—4.0 p.m.
Cholsey	The Sports Pavilion; Second and Fourth Wednesdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Compton	Village Hall; Third Wednesday, 2.0—4.15 p.m.
East Challow	Village Hall; 3rd Monday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
East Hanney	Village Hall; First Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
East Hendred	Parish Hall; Fourth Thursday, 3.0—4.30 p.m.
Grove	Grove Hall; Second and Fourth Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.
Hermitage	Village Hall; Second Monday, 2.0—4.30 p.m.
Long Wittenham	Village Hall; First Tuesday, 2.30—4.0 p.m.
Wallingford	Community Centre; First and Third Fridays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

Centre	Address and when held
Didcot	The Didcot Health Centre; Every Monday and Thursday, 7.0—9.0 p.m.
Wallingford	St. Mary's Hospital; Every Wednesday, 7—8.30 p.m.; Second and Fourth Wednesday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; First and Third Wednesday, 2.0—3.30 p.m. Second, Third and Fourth Thursday, 7.0—8.30 p.m.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY CLINICS

Centre	Address and when held
Wallingford	St. Mary's Hospital, Third or Fourth Wednesday, 2.0—4 p.m.
Wantage	Wantage Hospital; Second or Fourth Wednesday, 2.0—4 p.m.

MOBILE CHEST X-RAY SERVICE

The Unit visits as follows:—

Didcot	The Marlborough Club, Broadway; Tuesdays, 10.0 a.m.
Wantage	Urban District Council Offices, Portway; Mondays 4.0 p.m.

The Unit remains at each site for approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. It does not operate on Christmas Eve or Bank Holidays or during the month of August.

BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1970

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies.

Thirty-six samples of chlorinated water as distributed were taken for bacteriological examination. All were found to be satisfactory. The only complaints received regarding water supply were in respect of lack of pressure in parts of the town.

A number of industrial premises in the Borough obtain their water from private boreholes. During the year sixteen samples were taken from established bores and all found to be satisfactory.

The fluoride content of water supplied from the Wallingford boreholes is 0.15 parts per million. The supply is supplemented by water from outside the Borough, the fluoride content of which is less than 0.10 parts per million. On a number of occasions the Borough Council had indicated to the Water Board that they are in favour of fluoridation of the water supply, but because of the opposition of some Councils, the Water Board have so far refused to increase the natural fluoride content of the water.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey and this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily.

Extensive surveys of the older sewers in the Borough have revealed that they are in poor repair and in some cases in danger of collapse.

A scheme has been prepared for the relaying of these sewers and work is scheduled to commence within the next year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been maintained throughout the year by a team of three loaders and a driver with a 24 cub. yard compression type refuse vehicle.

To cope with the problem of refuse collection at Bank Holidays a system has been instituted whereby premises that are to miss a collection are issued with a paper refuse sack a week before the holiday; they are asked to use this sack to store one week's refuse

and their dustbin for the other week, then both are collected a week after the holiday. This system seems to have worked satisfactorily for domestic premises, but the volume of refuse from business premises has caused problems. To assist the normal crew with this double load a lorry is hired from a private contractor which is used to collect the sacks. This system has the advantage of not requiring a specialist refuse vehicle as the spare.

In addition to the normal weekly collection the Council on request arranges for the collection of extra or bulky refuse from domestic premises free of charge. In addition a container is provided at the Station Road Depot where refuse may be dumped. This is removed by a contractor.

Eight cars have been abandoned in the Borough during the year. These have either been removed on request by the owners, if they were able to be traced, or if not, removed and destroyed by the local authority.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All domestic refuse collected in the Borough is taken to the Wallingford Rural District Council's tip for disposal. The life of this tip is however very limited.

Meetings have taken place during the year between all the North Berks authorities to try to find a solution to refuse disposal problems common to all authorities. At present it is hoped to find a suitable tipping site for use by a number of authorities. Failing this, the possibility of the erection of an incineration plant sited so as to be able to be used by all North Berks authorities will be considered.

STREET CLEANSING

All the adopted roads of the town are swept at least once a week by the Council's Bedford Lacre road sweeper. This is supported by a hand sweeper who concentrates on the town centre.

PEST CONTROL

Summary of rodent work carried out:—

	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Premises other than agricultural	70	61
Agricultural premises	9	1
	—	—
	79	62
	—	—

OTHER PESTS

One outbreak of fleas was reported in an empty house. This was given two complete treatments with insecticidal fumigators. No complaints have been received from the new occupants.

The kennel for stray dogs at the police station had to be completely disinfected after housing a dog with mange. This was done and no complaints have been received since.

Thirty-four wasps' nests were destroyed during the summer months.

In addition to the normal rodent work carried out in the Borough 53 baits were placed in the sewers to determine if any infestation was present. None was found.

MILK SAMPLES

Twenty-six samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all passed the appropriate tests.

There is one farm in the Borough that supplies untreated milk for human consumption. Early in the year a sample of this milk gave a positive brucellosis reading. The cows in the herd were then divided into groups of three or four and a sample of milk taken from each group. When tested, eleven groups were negative and one positive. An attempt was then made to take individual samples from each of the three cows in this group, but unfortunately one had gone dry. The two tested were returned as negative, so it was assumed that the dry cow had been the culprit, and further tests some days later showed this to be the case. This cow was disposed of by the farmer and all samples taken since (seven) and tested for brucella have been negative.

CREAM SAMPLES

Forty-eight samples of cream were taken during the year and five (10 %) of these were found to be contaminated to some extent. None showed any pathogenic or coliform organisms so were quite safe, but the continued high incidence of bacteria in the samples means that a careful watch must still be kept on this product in the future.

ICE CREAM

Nineteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. All registered premises have been inspected during the year and all owners or occupiers of the premises notified of any contraventions. The general standard of these premises was found to be satisfactory. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough.

In addition to sampling from registered premises, samples were also obtained from catering establishments, using their equipment, to establish the efficiency of sterilisation of scoops and similar equipment. In most cases it was found to be satisfactory, and where it was not, advice was given and further samples proved satisfactory.

Several companies operate vans selling ice cream in the Borough and in general the standard of hygiene was found to be satisfactory.

Twenty-two samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

9 placed in Provisional Grade I.

7 placed in Provisional Grade II.

1 placed in Provisional Grade III.

5 placed in Provisional Grade IV.

Those placed in Grades III and IV were resampled and returned in higher grades.

OTHER SAMPLES

COOKED MEATS

These continue to be a problem mainly due to carelessness in the cleaning of slicing machines. It is found, however, that a poor result from this type of sample is a good way to persuade shopkeepers that their cleaning routines need attention.

Twenty-two cooked meat samples were taken during the year, five of which showed higher bacteriological counts than is desirable.

SAUSAGES.

Six sausage samples were taken and all proved satisfactory.

FROZEN CHICKEN

Eight samples were taken and tested for salmonella. No organisms were found.

LAMB

A piece of lamb was submitted for testing after it was claimed that it had caused food poisoning. No food poisoning organisms were found.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

Type of Business	No. or premises	Compliance with Reg. 16	No. where Reg. 19 applies	Compliance with Reg. 19
Butcher	8	8	8	8
Grocer	11	11	7	7
Fried Fish Shops	3	3	3	3
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	6	6	—	—
Cafés	9	9	9	9
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Confectionery	11	11	—	—
Public Houses	13	13	13	13
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1

The following number of visits were made to food premises during the year:—

Type of Business	Number of Visits
Butchers	42
Grocers	49
Greengrocers	20
Fried Fish Shops	18
Fishmongers	12
Cafés	50
Hotels	5
Bakers	13
Confectioners	39
Public Houses	26
Off Licence	6

Visits were also made to schools, hospitals and old people's homes kitchens, making a total of 294 visits made in connection with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Fourteen informal notices were served on owners or occupiers and all were complied with.

MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY REGULATIONS

All food stalls in the market are inspected regularly and contraventions pointed out to the stall holders. The most common fault is failure to set up washing facilities although they are available.

WALLINGFORD FAIR

The following food stalls were present at the annual fair:—

- 10 Hot dogs
- 5 Candy floss
- 4 Toffee apples and sweets
- 2 Fish and chips

All were inspected on the first evening and the following defects noted:—

- 2 stalls had no hot water
- 7 stalls did not have the appropriate name and address displayed;
- 5 stalls did not have either soap, nailbrush or towel.

Stall holders were notified of any defects to their stall and on subsequent inspections all were satisfactory.

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

- (a) Sale of ice cream 19
- (b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages,
potted, pressed, pickled and preserved food 9

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the local authority with their refuse. Condemned frozen food is disposed of in the same way as tinned food.

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the Borough. Both were inspected on a number of occasions. Their condition was generally satisfactory.

HOUSES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Two houses were erected by private enterprise.

One house was made fit and the closing order lifted.

The Council operate a small camping and caravan site at their Riverside Park for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

IMPROVEMENT AREA

Following extensive investigations of an area of the town it was decided that it may be possible to declare this area to be a general improvement area. Plans of possible improvements are now being drawn up, and when completed will be presented to the residents of the area, following which it is hoped to be able to draw up a scheme that will suit both the residents and other interested parties, including the local authority.

BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open-air swimming pool and paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.

The recirculation and purification plants have continued to function satisfactorily.

In addition to the Council pool there are three school swimming pools in the Borough.

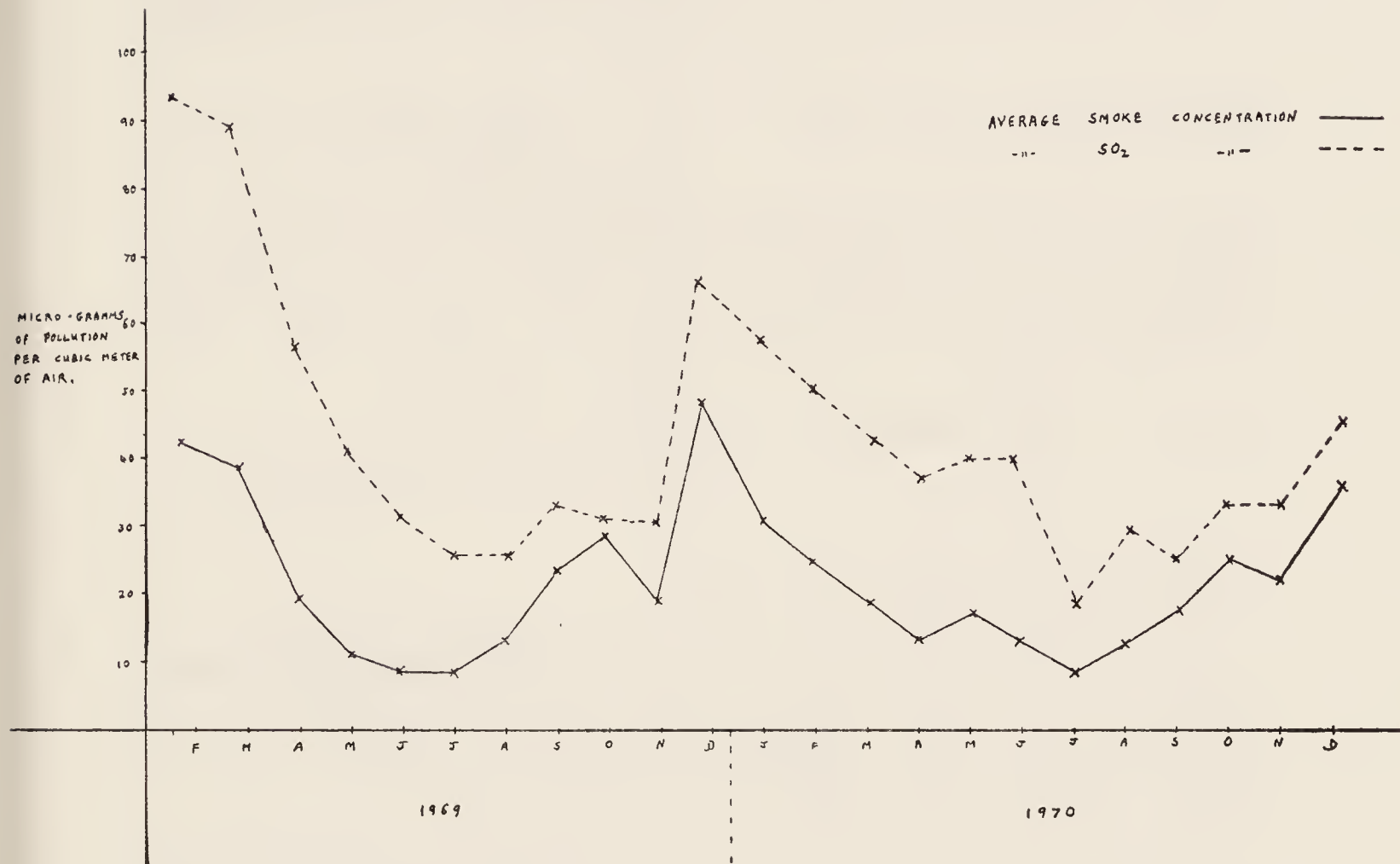
Thirteen samples of water were taken from the pools, all found to be satisfactory.

A sample of river water was also taken on which the laboratory declined to give a total for the number of bacteria present but stated that there were 9,000 coliform bacilli per ml.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The recording apparatus has now been in position for almost two years and a picture of atmospheric pollution in the Borough

is being built up. This picture will be used for comparison with figures obtained when Didcot Power Station is finished to assess what effect, if any, this has on atmospheric pollution in the Borough.



NOISE LEVELS

Using the noise level meter purchased by the Wallingford and Wantage Joint Public Health Committee, noise levels are being taken regularly at a number of points in the Borough, in order that the effects which any future development may have on the noise level in any particular area may be known. In order that more accurate noise measurement may be made, a calibrator was purchased during the year and also a wind shield.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered:—

Tinned Meat	168 lbs.	— In nearly all cases, this has been confined to large tins of ham, tongue and pressed meats which had been insufficiently processed and the tins had consequently blown.
Frozen Food (other than unpacked meat)	1,825 pkts.	— The amounts surrendered were due to breakdowns in the refrigeration plant.
Meat (other than from slaughterhouse and including chilled and frozen meat)	713 lbs.	— Usually condemned because of decomposition due to storage for too long a period plus a consignment of frozen meat spoilt during a power cut.
Fish	14 lbs.	— This was a halibut in a fairly advanced state of decomposition.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The following complaints were received concerning food:—

1. Rag in Fruit Salad—This was a tin of fruit salad which upon opening was found to contain a piece of rag. The wholesalers and importers were both informed and it was promised that the packers (in Australia) would be notified.
2. Wood in Ham—a packet of sliced ham was alleged to contain a piece of wood. However, before reporting the matter the complainant ate the ham and on investigation was only able to produce a cellophane wrapper and a splinter of wood. No action was taken.
3. Insect in Bread—Two complaints concerning insects in bread were received during the year. Different bakeries were involved and a warning letter was sent to each.
4. Dusty Tea—A $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. packet of tea was found to contain a high percentage of cocoa-like powder. The packers were informed of the complaint and their representative examined the tea. It was stated that the dust was very fine pieces of tea leaf which made a very fine cup of tea. No further action was taken.
5. Toast in Packet of Crisps—A complaint was made to the Borough Surveyor (at 11 p.m.) concerning a packet of crisps that had in it what appeared to be two pieces of toast. A representative of the firm took one of these pieces for analysis and reported that they were composed of 'potato fluff' (small flakes of potato) that had collected on a conveyor belt then been gathered together by the movement of the uncooked crisps until it was eventually de-

posited in the cookers, where it was fried into toast-like pieces and packed with the crisps. The manufacturers said steps would be taken to prevent a re-occurrence of this. No further action was taken.

6. Flies in Grapefruit—Two small fruit flies were found in a tin of grapefruit. The importers were notified and they were able from the code on the tin to ascertain the packers (in South Africa), who were informed of the trouble and asked to take more care in future.

MEAT INSPECTION

100 % inspection is carried out at the one slaughterhouse in the Borough.

The condition of the slaughterhouse is generally satisfactory.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	242	121	35	1509	1640
Number inspected	242	121	35	1509	1640
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	3	Nil	5	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	16	2	76	97
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	5.3	15.7	5.7	5.4	6.6

There was no incidence of either tuberculosis or cysticercosis during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTION

	Number on register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority	1	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	58	21	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	6	—	—
TOTAL	62	28	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork—Nil.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

All the premises to which the Act applies are registered and following inspection the owners or occupiers have been notified of contraventions.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Total number of registered premises at end of year
Offices	34
Retail Shops	83
Wholesale shops, warehouses	4
Catering establishments open to the public	10
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	131

Seventy-seven visits were carried out to premises with particular reference to the Act. Twenty-one informal notices were served concerning overcrowding, first aid and cleanliness.

Seven accidents were reported during the year. Both were investigated and found to be caused by the carelessness of the person hurt rather than default of the employers—all were warned to take more care.

June 1971.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

A new 4" diameter water main has been laid to the Orchard Way Housing Estate. This will increase the volume and pressure of water which will be required when improvements are undertaken to these houses next year.

The supply for the town continues to be drawn from the Manor Road boreholes augmented by the trunk main from Childrey Warren, the chlorine dosage being 0.25 parts per million. Natural fluoride content is 0.1 parts per million.

The water continues to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

Forty-nine samples were taken from properties supplied by the Thames Valley Water Board and from three boreholes in Manor Road—all samples were satisfactory.

There are 2,988 properties situated in the district, two of which are served by external standpipes. A property included in last year's report as having an external standpipe supply has now been provided with an internal supply.

There are 8 boreholes or wells giving private supplies to 13 properties in the district. Ten samples have been taken from the private supplies, two of which were occasionally unsatisfactory. The owners have been requested in one case to connect to the main supply, and the occupiers of the house in the other have been warned and strongly advised to boil all the water used for domestic and drinking purposes.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Seven samples were obtained from shops in the town. All were found to be satisfactory and no difficulties have been experienced with over-stocking. There were a number of complaints concerning dirty bottles, but these proved to be scratches on the external surface of the bottles. One complaint was received concerning foreign matter in a milk bottle, but on analysis this proved to be dried milk solids. The purveyors were requested to exercise more vigilance during the bottle cleaning process. No samples have been taken for examination for *Brucella Abortus*.

CREAM

Four samples of cream were taken for bacteriological examination. One was found to be unsatisfactory due to the retention of old stock. A coding system is now being used and a further sample proved satisfactory.

YOGHURT

Six samples of yoghurt were taken for bacteriological examination; all were found to be satisfactory. Coding systems are used by most shop-keepers and no retention of old stock has been observed.

ICE CREAM

Samples of ice cream have been taken from various hotels and cafés in the town. Joint sampling at the Tonibell Depot has continued in conjunction with the R.D.C. Health Department. Two samples from the depot proved to be unsatisfactory, these being due to negligence on the part of the van salesmen in cleaning the equipment. On re-sampling grade 1's were obtained. In all, 17 samples were taken with the following results:

Grade	1	2	3	4
Samples	9	6	1	1

OTHER FOODS

Twelve samples of meat pies were taken during the year for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory. However, a number of complaints were received concerning mouldy pies, these being due to the keeping of pies for too long a period before sale. After being requested to do so, manufacturers forwarded leaflets to all shops in the area giving advice on the best methods of storage and on the keeping quality of their products. No further complaints were received after this action was taken.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Trade	Number	Comply with Reg. 16	Reg. 19 applies	Comply with Reg. 19
Bakers, Shops, Bakehouses	5	4	4	4
Butchers	5	5	5	5
Cafés, Canteens, Restaurants	6	6	5	5
Chemists	2	2	2	2
Wet Fish	2	2	1	1
Greengrocers	3	3	0	0
Grocers and General Stores	18	17	18	18
Hotels & Licensed Premises	16	15	16	16
Public Halls and Clubs	9	5	9	6
School Meals Kitchens	10	10	10	10
Sweet Shops	8	8	0	0
Other Premises	8	8	7	7
TOTALS	92	85	77	74

FOOD HYGIENE

There are 92 food premises in the district which are inspected from time to time. In most cases standards have been satisfactory, but where there were difficulties more frequent visits were made.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

The following foods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption. All this food was voluntarily surrendered and buried or burnt on the tip under supervision.

FRESH FOODS

Meat	76 pounds
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CANNED FOODS

Meat — 7 cans	12 pounds
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FROZEN FOODS

138 packets vegetables	77 pounds
167 packets fish	75 pounds
93 packets meat	39 pounds
54 packets poultry	444 pounds
75 packets pastry	36 pounds
355 packets milk products	37 pounds
23 packets fruit	5 pounds

801 pounds

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

Routine inspection of poultry in shops is carried out; no seizures were made during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

Seven samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from public and school swimming baths in the area. Six of these were reported to be satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. The latter sample was taken from the Wantage U.D.C. open-air paddling pool, in the Recreation Ground, which is chlorinated by hand. Following increases to the dosage rate at peak periods of usage further samples of the pool proved to be satisfactory. One of the school swimming pools changed, during the bathing season, from the use of liquid chlorine, delivered by a semi automatic chlorinator, to hand dosage with chlorine granules containing cyanuric acid. This greatly reduced the problem of ph control, which is difficult in this area due to the hard water. However, the free chlorine content was found to be constantly low and dosage rates will have to be increased next season. Some concern was shown on the build up of cyanuric acid in the pool water which, on chemical analysis at the end of the bathing season, was found

to contain 180 parts per million cyanuric acid. From the report of the Public Analyst, however, it would appear that 180 ppm of cyanuric acid in the pool water would present no toxic hazard.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale Residential Caravan Site off Garston Lane, which is licensed under the Caravan Sites Control and Development Act of 1960, has been regularly inspected throughout the year. Minor defects were found and rectified in some of the caravans. However the problem of condensation arose again in the latter months of the year, partly due to the construction of the caravans and partly due to the present-day mode of living which makes conditions worse in such cramped living quarters. Further insulation of some of the caravans has been requested of the owners and it is hoped that this will help to alleviate the major problem of condensation.

Concern has arisen over the number of persons accommodated in some of the caravans and representation now has been made to the owners to ensure that overcrowding will not occur.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The 60 cu. yd. refuse vehicle has proved adequate for collection of refuse and no problems were experienced during the year. At present all tipping is done at two tips at Abingdon.

However it is likely that these arrangements will be altered in the future due to the possible closure of these tips.

A committee formed from representatives of this Council and adjoining authorities is endeavouring to obtain another suitable tip and also considering other means for disposing of refuse from this area in the future. The 'S' Hill tip off Manor Road is available to local householders on Wednesdays and Saturdays for the disposal of additional refuse.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Extensions to Bradfield Farm Sewage Disposal Works are nearly completed and various stages of the scheme have been commissioned during the latter part of the year.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

It has not been necessary to carry out disinfection of any premises this year.

The annual fumigation of the flour mill in Mill Street was carried out in August using hydrogen cyanide.

Once again this year all complaints of wasps' nests were dealt with by a private operator.

A number of flea infestations have been dealt with this year, most of the infestations being due to pets carrying the fleas into the house. However one unexplainable heavy infestation was reported in an old property which had been vacant for some months and where no previous complaints had been received.

There was a re-occurrence of cluster flies in the properties which were treated last year. Both had similar aspects, and this may be a lead to the repeated infestations. Treatment carried out with lindane smoke generators and liquid spray was not fully effective and the use of pyrethum powder sprayed into the loft spaces and wall cavities at 100 lbs. pressure finally achieved satisfactory results.

RODENT CONTROL

Test baiting of sewer manholes was carried out this year. A total number of 255 manholes were test baited out of an estimated 2,268 in the area. No takes were observed and an exemption for test baiting for a period of three years, commencing the 1st November, 1970, was granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A number of heavy infestations by rats were reported on farms in the latter part of the year. These infestations were due mainly to the poor control methods used at the farms and chiefly because the small quantities of warfarin used were not replenished. The infestations were brought under control and the farmers informed of the best methods to keep the number of rodents down.

No difficulties have been experienced with the use of warfarin, except in the case of the farms where it was noticeable that longer periods elapsed before warfarin took effect.

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	2943	44
2. (a) Total number of properties inspected following notification	53	6
(b) Number infested by		
(i) rats	33	4
(ii) mice	7	3
3. (a) Total inspections other than by notification	215	9
(b) Number infested by		
(i) rats	50	4
(ii) mice	9	4

HOUSING

	1968	1969	1970
Number of permanent houses erected	164	39	8
Number of permanent houses erected by local authority	113	37	0
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise	51	2	8
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—	—
Number of families on housing list	221	180	239
Number of elderly people on O.P.D. list	—	80	76
Number of houses represented as unfit	21	3	37
Number of closing orders made	—	3	—
Number of demolition orders made	—	—	1
Number of houses in area represented as unfit and included in clearance areas	—	—	36

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Number of applications made for standard grants	9	5	10
Number of applications made for discretionary grants	2	2	2

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Routine inspections have continued during the year and no alarming contraventions were found.

FACTORIES ACT 1961 PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority	37	11	2	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	38	11	2	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	No. of cases in which defects were found		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK — NIL.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Notification of accidents received — One.

Number of visits to premises by Inspectors — Four.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	4	38	4
Retail shops	8	78	21
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	1	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	10	7
Fuel storage depots	—	—	—
Totals	12	127	32

PERSONS EMPLOYED ON REGISTERED PREMISES IN 1970

Workplace	Males	Females	Total
Offices	91	91	182
Retail shops	74	261	335
Wholesale shops and warehouses	9	—	9
Catering establishments	14	27	41
Canteens	—	8	8
Fuel depots	1	—	1
Totals	189	387	576

No prosecutions were made during the year.

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Atmospheric pollution and noise	...	...	...	...	11
Building, structures	...	...	...	...	14
Diseases of animals	...	...	...	...	3
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	34
Drainage, sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	63
Factories, workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	19
Food inspection, complaints	...	...	...	...	65
Food hygiene, licensed premises	...	...	...	...	145
Housing	...	...	...	...	408
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	50
Mobile food shops, vehicles, stalls	...	...	...	...	28
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	96
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	29
Petroleum and explosives	...	...	...	...	54
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	33
Refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	34
Rodent control	...	...	...	...	498
Sampling	...	...	...	...	203
Shops, offices, hairdressers	...	...	...	...	98
Swimming and paddling pools	...	...	...	...	98
Water	...	...	...	...	36
Total number of visits					2049

Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	139
Total number of complaints substantiated	...	...	...	109
Number of defects or nuisances remedied	...	...	...	89
Number of formal notices served	...	...	...	—
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	86

June 1971

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

ORGANISATION AND STAFFING

With effect from 1st June, 1970, the responsibility for planning and building control was transferred to the Engineer's department; Mr. E. A. Lane, Building Inspector and Miss M. Bowden, Planning Clerk, were transferred to the Engineer's staff on the same date. On the 26th July, 1970, Mr. A. J. Cookson terminated his employment with the Council. He was replaced by Mr. V. J. Clinch on the 7th September, 1970. The department is now responsible for Public Health Administration and Housing Management functions only. There is a need for an additional Public Health Inspector on the staff.

WATER SUPPLY

A report on the water supply for all four districts is given at the end of this book.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

In July last a start was made on the new sewage disposal works for Didcot—estimated cost four hundred thousand pounds—and the scheme is progressing well. It is hoped that the works will be ready to receive flows in the latter part of 1971.

A new storm water sewer has been constructed in Didcot, running from the new Ambulance Station to an outfall by the Didcot Football Club. This sewer should relieve flooding in the Broadway area as well as providing surface water drainage for the Ambulance Station.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection in the area has continued normally and a spate of car dumping that occurred earlier in the area has fortunately abated.

It is hoped in 1971 to introduce spring clean weekends, and on these weekends householders will be able to put out any form of rubbish and this will be collected by lorry.

The refuse disposal situation is that the Wallingford Borough and Rural District have approximately three years tipping space at Pearith Pit. Other authorities in the area, principally Wantage Rural and Wantage Urban, have very little space available.

The County Council have indicated that they would be prepared to consider rescinding the fly ash condition on certain pits at Sutton Courtenay and making these available for refuse disposal. Negotiations with Amey's Limited to secure such pits are at present in progress and an application has been made to the County Planning Authority. In the first instance these tips are regarded as a stop-gap measure until a long term solution to the disposal of refuse in North Berks can be found.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 1970

	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	8170	265
Number of inspections	506	475
Number of infestations (rats)	180	87
(mice)	48	17

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district. The particulars are as follows:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>
5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.	Messrs. H. Andrews and Sons, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.

MEAT INSPECTION 1970

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs
January	11	6	47	29
February	11	6	52	22
March	13	8	49	22
April	12	3	58	13
May	5	1	44	17
June	15	3	32	28
July	8	2	52	35
August	8	4	39	24
September	11	5	43	35
October	12	2	54	33
November	7	5	50	33
December	10	5	67	21
Total	123	50	587	312

Tuberculosis

Whole Carcases	—	—	—	—
Part Carcase/Organs	—	—	10	—
Percentage	—	—	1.70	—

<i>Cysticercosis Bovis</i>	—	—	—	—
----------------------------	---	---	---	---

Diseases other than Tuberculosis or C. Bovis

Whole Carcases	—	—	—	1
Part Carcases/Organs	8	—	70	11
Percentage	6.50	—	11.92	3.85

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED AS UNFIT

Meat	170 lbs.
Offal	312½ lbs.

Total — 482½ lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK

During the year it was discovered that untreated milk sold from one farm in the District was the source of a salmonella food poisoning outbreak and a Heat Treatment Order was made in respect of the milk. The farmer did not apply for renewal of his licence and on 30th October, 1970, the Council was informed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that his Untreated Licence had expired, and that he had been deleted from the list of Producer Retailers.

Twenty-three samples of untreated milk were taken for bacteriological examination. Two of these gave positive cultures of salmonella typhi- murium. Nine also gave positive brucella ring tests and six gave positive cultures of brucella abortus.

There are 29 registered distributors of milk in the district, but as far as the Council is aware, there are now no distributors retailing untreated milk.

COMPLAINTS

During the year one complaint was received concerning a dirty milk bottle and a letter of warning was sent to the dairy concerned. A second complaint related to suspended particles in bottled pasteurised milk. This was taken up with the dairy and with the Public Health Department of the City of Oxford. The cause of the trouble was traced to a defective rubber ring gasket in the bottling plant, which was rectified, and there has been no further complaint concerning the standard of filtration.

ICE CREAM

The number of premises in the district registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream is one. There are 67 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. No samples of ice cream were taken during 1970.

GENERAL

The undermentioned complaints relating to food offered for sale were dealt with during the year:

1. Tin of tongue—no further action after examination of contents.
2. Piece of glass in loaf of bread—prosecution—firm fined £25 plus £15 15s. costs.
3. Mouldy packet of potato crisps—letter of warning to manufacturer.
4. Insect larvae in easter egg—letters of warning to manufacturer and retailer.
5. Button in loaf of bread—letter of warning to bakery concerned.
6. Mouldy loaf of bread—no further action—lack of evidence re date of purchase.
7. Mouldy sausages—letter of warning to retailer.
8. Foreign body in loaf—analyst's report "flake from baking tin". No further action.
9. Fly attached to Madeira sandwich cake—letter of warning to manufacturer.
10. Foreign body in pork pie—letter of warning to manufacturer.
11. Beef casserole with potato dumplings—letters of warning to retailer and manufacturer.
12. Foreign body in doughnut—letter of warning to manufacturer.
13. Foreign body in lardy cake—manufacturer prosecuted. Fined £20 and £10 10s. costs.
14. Foreign body in New Zealand Cheddar cheese—referred to New Zealand Dairy Board for investigation and report.
15. Beetles in Weetabix cereal—letter of warning to retailer.
16. Foreign body in jar of Gerber baby food—letter of warning to manufacturer.
17. Adhesive dressing in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. packet of Australian butter—letter to Australian Dairy Produce Board.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qtrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
CANNED FOOD	4	7	5	12
FRESH FOOD				
Beef	—	—	1	9
Pork	—	—	—	24
Poultry	—	3	2	25
Bacon	—	—	1	24
FROZEN FOOD				
723 pkts. Fish				
62 „ Meat				
606 „ Vegetables				
77 „ Cakes and pastries				
157 „ Mousse				
573 „ Beef burgers, pies, etc.				
59 cans Fruit juices				

STATISTICS — FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

Grocers	42
Confectioners	16
Hotels	6
Public Houses	27
Licensed Clubs	4
Food Factories and Warehouses	10
Butchers	17
Greengrocers	8
Bakehouses	4
Fish shops	5
Cafés	8
Bread and cakes	5

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacture of ice cream	1
Storage and sale of ice cream	67
Fish-frying	3
Sausage making, ham boiling, etc.	7
Bakehouses	4
Preparation of “take-away” meals	1

POULTRY INSPECTION

Number of poultry processing premises	2
Number of visits	5
Total number of birds processed	53,701
Types of birds processed	turkeys, hens, broilers, capons
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit	2.44 %
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	4,642 lbs.

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1970

	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	19	—
Food Hygiene Regulations	12	—
Factories (Sanitary Conveniences)	1	—
Housing Repairs	3	—
Drainage	6	—
Caravan Sites	5	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There was one complaint relating to smoke nuisance during the year which was dealt with informally. One application was received for the determination of the height of a new chimney in accordance with section 6 of the Clean Air Act, 1968.

The Warren Springs Laboratory were consulted about the location of a suitable site in Didcot for taking readings of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. It has been agreed that Churchill House is a suitable site for this purpose. The equipment has been ordered, and it is hoped to have this measuring station operative early in 1971.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1970, two persons were buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

SWIMMING BATHS

The undermentioned swimming baths are situated within the district:

- Edmonds Park, Didcot (public)
- Didcot Girls' Grammar School (private)
- Cranford House School, Moulsoford (private)
- Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Nr. Wallingford (public)
- Primary School, East Hagbourne (private)

No samples of swimming bath water were taken during 1970.

HOUSING

During 1970, one house and one flat were represented as unfit for habitation.

The following building programme was completed by the Council during 1970:

DIDCOT — Twelve 2 b/r bungalows and twenty 2 b/r maisonettes at Laburnum Grove.

ASTON TIRROLD — Three 1 b/r and three 2 b/r bungalows.

The undermentioned development was commenced during 1970:

SOUTH MORETON — Four 2 b/r bungalows, eight 2 b/r flats.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During 1970 the Council gave three improvement grants and three standard grants for house improvements.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing Register at the end of 1970 was 716.

CARAVANS

The undermentioned licensed caravan sites are situated in the district:

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, NR. WALLINGFORD

120 permanent sites, 40 holiday sites. Notice has been served on the owner re improvements to the site.

BLAGRAVE FARM SITE, DIDCOT

28 permanent sites. Notice served on owner re siting of caravans, condition of roads, storage facilities, recreational space.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

32 permanent sites. Satisfactory apart from fire-fighting equipment which is being replaced.

HAGBOURNE ROAD SITE, DIDCOT

100 permanent sites. Existing standings being replaced by concrete hardstandings. Additional street lighting to be provided.

POST OFFICE SITE, CHOLSEY

12 permanent sites. Additional storage facilities required. The standard of caravans on this site is poor.

BARLEY MOW SITE, LONG WITTENHAM

6 permanent sites, 40 holiday sites. Notice served on owner re condition of roads, car parking, additional water standpipes and number of caravans on site.

DIDCOT POWER STATION

113 temporary sites. The site is provided with communal toilet and washing facilities which are maintained in fair condition. It is anticipated that the number of vans will be reduced during 1971 as the main construction work on the Power Station is now completed.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The report to the Ministry of Labour for the year was as follows:—

TABLE A — REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	3	28	6
Retail shops	1	86	15
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	5	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	4	5
Fuel storage depots	—	1	1
Totals	4	124	28

TABLE B — NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES

40

TABLE C — ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR

Class of workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	232
Retail shops	440
Wholesale departments, warehouses	49
Catering establishments open to the public	15
Canteens	2
Fuel storage depots	1
Total	739
Total Males	268
Total Females	471

There were no Exemptions or Prosecutions during the year. The number of inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act was 2.

The number of inspections carried out has again been very limited due to the shortage of staff. However, during the latter

part of the year re-organisation of responsibilities took place and it is anticipated that more time will be available for inspections during the coming year.

The operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations 1968 has presented only one problem during the past year. This concerned difficulty in ascertaining the whereabouts of inspection reports relating to a lift in a multiple store, operated by a national company. The problem has been overcome, the company agreeing to copy reports being kept by the branch manager, the originals still being retained by the head office.

The number of accidents reported suggests that many occupiers are still unaware of their responsibility to notify. Every effort is made when inspections are carried out to impress upon them the need for notification.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT 1961
 PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	8	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	51	8	2	nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Insufficient sanitary conveniences — 1 (remedied).

Referred by H.M. Inspector.

Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences — 1.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Number of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):
 Making, etc., of wearing apparel — 2.

February 1971.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOOD ADMINISTRATION

MILK

Increasing awareness of the problems of untreated milk and its close association with *Brucella abortus* organisms has brought about a national eradication scheme. Unfortunately, it will be many years before brucellosis in cattle becomes as rare as tuberculosis is today and in the meantime it is still lawful for untreated milk to be sold.

In this district only one 'Untreated' licence is still valid, but in fact no milk has been sold under such licence since brucella reactors were discovered in the herd about two years ago.

The real danger lies in the fact that farm employees and their families are able to obtain, again quite lawfully, milk direct from the cows. No effort should be spared in pointing out the risks that this practice carries.

All milk sold in the district is pasteurised, sterilised or ultra-treated and 1 pasteuriser's licence and 10 dealers' licences were in force during the year.

Three complaints of dirty milk bottles, one of them containing part of a cockroach, were received during the year. Legal proceedings might well have been taken but for the fact that in each case the caps had been removed by consumers, thus making it impossible to prove beyond doubt that the foreign matter was present in the bottle at the point of sale. Nevertheless the dairy concerned was reprimanded and requested to ensure greater vigilance on the part of their 'spotters'. The problem of dirty bottles will, of course, continue as long as this type of returnable container, subject as it is to so much abuse by the public, has to be used.

MILK PRODUCTS

The plant at Grove continued to distribute milk products over a wide area, concentrating especially on yoghurt, the production of which has now been streamlined.

SAMPLING

Six samples of pasteurised double cream were taken during the year and all except one proved to be satisfactory. The H.T.S.T. (high temperature, short time) method of pasteurisation is now used and this has the advantage of giving greater consistency in bacteriological quality.

Occasionally notifications were received from other Local Authorities concerning cream samples and in order to be able to compare results satisfactorily, 'paired' samples were taken to the laboratory for examination. One carton would be tested immediately, the other being kept for one week under simulated shop storage conditions before testing.

The reconstituted milk, called 'Komil', produced by this company again provided some problems, but these were principally concerned with the coding system. The difficulties have now been overcome. The Komil plant room was completely redecorated during the year following a request from this department. Three samples were taken during the year, two of which proved to be satisfactory. The other failed to pass the methylene blue test, but it was not possible to determine the cause.

FOOD PREMISES

The following food premises were in use during the year:—

School meals kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	19
Staff Canteens (U.K.A.E.A., S.R.C., A.R.C. Canteens and U.K.A.E.A. Hostels)	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cafés and tea rooms	...	...	...	...	...	7
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	50
Grocers and confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	53
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fish and chip shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Off licences	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3
						<hr/> 155

Two licences were issued to butchers for the sale of game.
Total number of inspections of food premises — 89.

The larger shops and supermarkets now tend to have integral butchers' shops and off licences and the increase in the number of fish and chip shops from 1 to 2 is due to the opening of a new shop in Hampstead Norris on 2 days a week by the owner of the village stores.

The new development at Grove has provided a shopping centre for the area and most of the 13 units are now occupied. Of these, 7 are or will be food premises.

The number of public houses serving food across the bar is on the increase, and in some cases kitchens have been found to be unsuitable. In these instances, brewers have been requested to ensure compliance with the regulations. Also the standard of sanitary accommodation has tended to drop back, and on seven occasions it was necessary to ask brewers to improve conveniences provided for customers. In three of these cases work was satis-

factorily completed during the year and work is expected to commence on the remainder early in 1971.

New Food Hygiene Regulations came into force in March 1971, replacing the existing ones which have been in force for ten years. Food traders have been advised of the content of these new regulations.

Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations relating to wash-hand basins was complied with by all except two food premises where the amount of business conducted was very small. Regulation 19 relating to sinks was complied with in every case where applicable.

Redecoration of two grocers' shops was requested and carried out during the year.

MOBILE TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

The number of mobile food vendors appears to be slowly increasing, although the majority of those seen in the district had their bases elsewhere. If on inspection any breach of the regulations was apparent, the Public Health Department for the area from which the trader operated was notified. Some traders come quite a distance to operate in the area and these include a mobile fish and chip shop.

Two mobile greengrocers and one ice cream vendor continue to operate from premises within the district, the latter now boasting two vans.

Two seasonal fruit stalls continued in use during the year and were found to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

The total number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the storage and sale of ice cream remained at 56. Again no pre-packed ice cream samples were taken, efforts being concentrated on the more potentially troublesome soft ice cream produced by mobile vendors operating from the Wantage Depot. The results of sampling this product depend on the conscientiousness of the individual operator and carelessness on his part is often reflected in poor sample results.

The burden of sampling was again shared with the Urban District Council Inspector and the results will be found in his report.

WATERCRESS

The beds at Letcombe Bassett continued to be used during the year and three samples of cress bed water were taken for bacteriological examination. Two from the artesian springs which feed the beds proved to be highly satisfactory and the third taken from the outfall showed an acceptably low level of coliform organisms.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following items of food were voluntarily surrendered during the year:—

Fresh meat and offal at retail shops ... 69 lbs.

Frozen foods (due to cabinet breakdowns) ... 387 lbs.

The meat was surrendered because of bone taint.

There was a slight increase in the number of food complaints over 1969. Three were received from school meals kitchens and concerned the quality of meat delivered to the schools under contract. In two cases the meat came from the same source, and on the second occasion a quantity of pork was formally seized and condemned by a Justice of the Peace. Legal proceedings were not instituted but a stern warning was given to the supplier and the County Council Supplies Department was notified. It is unfortunate that when tenders for the supply of meat to schools are accepted, greater consideration appears to be given to cost than to the quality of the product.

Two complaints of mould in meat pies were received during the year. As is usual in these cases, investigations pointed to inadequate stock rotation on the part of the retailer, a suspicion that delivery men were collecting pies from one retailer to pass on to another, an unintelligible coding system or a combination of these factors.

Warnings were given where appropriate and manufacturers were asked to issue instructions to all retailers on the proper methods of storage and stock rotation.

Two complaints concerned foreign matter in bakery products. The first was a piece of discoloured dough in a 'bap', the discolouration being caused by dust, typical of airborne carbonaceous particles. As the quantity of foreign matter was very small a warning letter was sent to the bakery. Shortly after this letter was dispatched another complaint concerning jute fibres in a Hovis loaf from the same source was received, and on this occasion the Council decided to prosecute. A plea of guilty was entered and a fine of £20 imposed by the magistrates.

FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Two visits were made to farms to investigate salmonellae infections in calves in an attempt to prevent the transmission of food poisoning organisms to farm workers.

Other visits made to advise on the prevention of spread of disease and to collect faecal specimens were:—

Salmonellae—5 visits—15 specimens.

Infective hepatitis—1 visit.

POULTRY PROCESSING

No poultry processing plants were in operation in the district during the year.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is a summary of the Annual Report submitted to the Department of Employment and Productivity for the year ending 31st December, 1970:

Class of premises	No. registered during year	No. registered at end of year	General inspections	Persons employed
Offices	2	12	2	391
Retail shops	2	48	20	125
Catering establishments open to the public	1	6	2	31
Fuel storage depots	—	2	—	5
Totals	5	68	24	552

Male employees — 260

Female employees — 292

Total number of visits to registered premises of all kinds — 64.

The majority of inspections were made during the last quarter of the year when an additional public health inspector was appointed.

There was an increase in total employees of nearly 40% due to the transfer of control over the Agricultural Research Council at Compton and the Atlas Computer Laboratory at Chilton from the Department to the Council.

Standards were found to be generally satisfactory and such contraventions as were discovered related to minor items such as misplaced thermometers and depleted first aid kits.

Only one accident was reported during the year, this being when a female shop assistant cut her finger on a bacon slicer. No action was taken since the slicer was provided with adequate guards and there was no evidence of negligence on the part of the shopkeeper.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The small slaughterhouse at the Agricultural Research Council's Field Station, Compton, continued in use during the year and the standard of hygiene was maintained at a high level.

A licence was also granted to the Pig Improvement Co. Ltd., in respect of their hysterectomy unit at East Hanney. An additional condition imposed was that not more than 3 sows should be slaughtered in any one week, thus giving strict control over throughput and allaying fears of neighbours that growth would be unlimited. Work to bring the slaughterhouse up to the standard

required by Regulations was complete by the end of the year. During the year 23 sows were inspected and passed as fit for human consumption.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART AT A.R.C. COMPTON

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	86	81	66	139	723
<i>All diseases except tubercu- losis and cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	13	Nil	Nil	20

There were no cases of tuberculosis or cysticercosis.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned — 18 cwt. 38 lb.

Income from meat inspection charges — £54.77½.

Slaughtermen licensed at the end of the year — 4.

Number of visits made to slaughterhouses by inspectors — 149.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE

During the year under review this service continued to function satisfactorily but with disruptions from time to time due to the absence of employees through holidays and illness.

In December a new 35 cubic yard Pakamatic replaced the oldest Fore and Aft machine, compensating to some degree for the increasing bulk of household refuse year by year.

Negotiations continued on the possible introduction of an incentive bonus scheme for employees but no firm decisions had been made by the end of the year.

It was estimated that approximately 7,000 tons of refuse were removed to the tipping sites at Abingdon and Stanford-in-the-Vale, both tips being outside the boundaries of the Council and necessitating a good deal of travelling. An attempt was made to overcome disposal difficulties by approaching the Berkshire County Council for permission to use 5 acres of land at Appleford for tipping purposes. This approach was made on behalf of the Joint Committee on Refuse Disposal in North Berks and the site was intended for use by Wallingford R.D.C., Wallingford Borough, Wantage U.D.C. and Wantage R.D.C. No decision had been reached by the end of the year.

Bulk collections continued to be undertaken and these proved popular with the public generally and, no doubt, helped to minimise the dumping of unwanted material on unauthorised sites.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied throughout the district, except for a few private supplies, by the Thames Valley Water Board, who have kindly furnished the following information:—

SOURCES OF SUPPLY — Boreholes at Blewbury, Brightwalton, Childrey Warren, Compton and West Hendred plus connections with other areas to enable the supply to be supplemented if necessary.

BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY — Samples were taken and examined by the Board’s laboratory staff as follows:—

Source	Blewbury		Bright-walton		Childrey Warren		Compton		West Hendred	
	Raw	Final	Raw	Final	Raw	Final	Raw	Final	Raw	Final
No. of samples	52	19	21	24	44	55	23	24	39	39

The results indicated that the treatment applied at the works was sufficient to provide a distributed water of a high standard of bacterial purity.

CHEMICAL QUALITY — Moderately hard, non-plumbo-solvent and with a natural fluoride content of less than 0.1 p.p.m., except West Hendred which showed 0.3 p.p.m.

SAMPLING BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

No samples of mains water were taken during the year. Nineteen samples from 13 different private supplies were taken and all except 4 were bacteriologically satisfactory. Cleansing operations were carried out in each case and on re-sampling only one continued to give poor results. The owner of the supply was advised to improve the protection to the well-head, but this work had not been carried out by the end of the year. One shallow well in Compton fell into disuse when a connection to the mains supply was made.

SWIMMING POOLS

Swimming pools were in use at the following schools during the summer months:—

Ardington, Blewbury, Childrey, Chilton, Compton (2), East Challow, Grove and Harwell.

These pools are of the prefabricated, beginners’ type except for the one at Chilton and one at Compton Downs Secondary Modern School.

Each pool was visited at least once during the bathing season, and it was pleasing to note that since the County Council had issued detailed instructions on pool maintenance and taken a far

greater interest in the overall supervision of school bathing facilities, chlorination, pH and turbidity problems had been largely overcome. It was found necessary to recommend the replacement of the filters at Grove School and to suggest re-filling at Harwell where an exceptional algae problem occurred. Once again the interest shown by school staffs was very keen and co-operation with them and the County Council's adviser on physical education was exceptionally good. During the year another training session was held, this time in the Eastern part of the County, and a lecture given by the County P.H.I. for West Sussex was very well attended. Further meetings were held at Reading and Icknield School, Wantage, in connection with the experimental use of cyanurates, a much more stable method of applying chlorine to pools.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:

EAST HENDRED, WEST HENDRED, ARDINGTON AND LOCKINGE

A scheme for sewerage West Hendred and for the linking up of the villages of East Hendred, Ardington and Lockinge with a view to pumping the total flow to the recently commissioned Bradfield Farm Works at Grove is now in the final stages of design.

DENCHWORTH

The Council has resolved to provide a village sewerage scheme and the laying of sewers was commenced in November 1970. It is expected that the system will be commissioned during the early part of 1971. The flow from this village will be pumped to Bradfield Farm Works for treatment.

EAST CHALLOW

The development of a site for Council Housing brought about the need to provide off-site sewers to serve the development and these, both foul and surface water, are now being laid. The opportunity was taken, jointly with the County Council, to provide a surface water sewer of sufficient size to cater not only for the housing development, but also to overcome the local surface water problems which have been the cause, from time to time, of several properties being flooded.

FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME

The Council has agreed a five-year programme of capital works which includes the following:—

VILLAGE

East Challow: Pumping station and rising main to connect village with joint works at Bradfield Farm.

Sparsholt: Village sewerage scheme with pumping main to East Challow.

Childrey: Gravity sewer to connect village sewers with West Challow and thence to Regional scheme via East Challow.

West Hanney: Additional pump and rising main to Bradfield Farm Joint Works.

East Hendred: Relay very old village sewers.

Compton: Extensions to sewage treatment works.

Chaddleworth: Phase II of a village sewerage scheme. Phase 1 was laid approximately 10 years ago.

Letcombe Bassett: Village sewerage scheme with pumping to East Challow as part of Regional scheme.

The order of the list is not necessarily an indication of priority.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The five existing licences were all renewed and inspections were made jointly with the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector. Premises were found to be satisfactory.

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:—

	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	283	—
Number infested by (a) Rats ...	262	—
(b) Mice ...	21	—
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,330	55*
Number infested by (a) Rats ...	312	27
(b) Mice ...	16	9

* Includes 28 under contract. Total value of contracts — £662.

SEWER TREATMENT. A 10% survey revealed that no sewer infestations existed.

Seventy-nine complaints of insect infestation were received and dealt with as follows:

Bees and wasps	42
Ants	21
Fleas	6
Flies	4
Cockroaches	3
Carpet beetles	1
Furniture beetles	1
Mites	1

CARAVANS

PERMANENT SITES

Charles Simpson (Caravans) Ltd., Westfield Close and The Willows, Cane Lane Grove (90 caravans).

Work was still outstanding at the end of the year on the provision of laundry facilities, the reason being that a new launderette opened in Grove, thus making the provision of another one on site financially risky. Fire fighting equipment was improved and two 100' hoses were installed, although only one had been connected to the mains supply by the end of the year.

The Chiltern Caravan Co., The Barrow, Harwell (35 caravans).

Conditions on this site were maintained at an acceptable level. A large number of caravan occupants were rehoused during the year due to a new Council housing estate being completed, and several of the older caravans were replaced by larger and better mobile homes. There were, however, still a number of 22' caravans in use as permanent dwellings at the end of the year.

Mr. R. W. Pask, Ladycroft Road, Blewbury (60 caravans)

Preparatory work for road surfacing continued during the year but progress was slow and it was necessary to ask the owner to speed up the surfacing programme and to renovate the two toilet blocks and the fire appliances.

INDIVIDUAL SITES (1 caravan each)

Mr. H. S. Clargo, Bidhu, Blewbury.

Mrs. B. A. Bosley, Grove Wick Farm, Grove.

Miss H. M. I. Balcombe, Quab Hill Farm, East Hendred.

TEMPORARY SITES

Only one licence was still in force at the end of the year and this should become void during 1971. All other caravans in use in the district were covered by the exemption clauses of the Caravans Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

It was significant that because of the Council's rehousing policy the number of families with more than two children living in caravans was drastically reduced, but nevertheless young couples with only one or two children still had to face the continuing problems of high rents, overcrowding, condensation, lack of privacy, shared amenities and restrictions unknown to house occupiers. It can be argued that caravans are the only means whereby young married couples can become independent, but at what cost? It is indeed a sad commentary on the nation's housing situation that caravans constructed for holiday use are still being used as permanent dwellings. One can only hope that the time will soon arrive when there will be enough houses and flats available to all sections of the community to enable the Government to ban the use of all but sufficiently large, self-contained and properly insulated mobile homes for permanent habitation.

Approximately 30 visits were made to caravan sites during the year.

GYPSIES

Plans for enlarging and improving the gypsy camp site at Woodhill Lane, East Challow, were completed during the year with the co-operation of the Engineer and Surveyor's department. Visits to existing gypsy sites were made in an attempt to find the best means of providing the necessary amenities and one important fact emerged. This was that under no circumstances should any communal facilities be provided. Where such facilities had been provided in other districts they had been virtually destroyed in no time. The plans eventually submitted to the Berkshire County Council therefore showed complete personalisation of facilities on each of 12 pitches. The estimated cost to the Council would be £10,000 exclusive of land purchase, and at the end of the year a decision from the County was awaited.

HOUSING

The amount of time spent on housing work again increased, due partly to the large number of people rehoused following the completion of an extensive Council house building programme at Harwell and East Hanney and partly to the impetus given to improvement grant schemes by the 1969 Housing Act.

With regard to unfit properties, the most common sequence of events was:

- 1. Discovery of property by means of survey, application for rehousing or application for grant.
- 2. Action under the Housing Act 1957 and rehousing of tenants where appropriate.
- 3. Sale of property in many instances.
- 4. Reconditioning of property with grant aid, incorporating all necessary repairs.

By this means the improvement and repair of dwellings continued at a steady rate with the need for service of notices in only 8 instances. Work was completed in 3 of these cases by the end of the year. Authority to serve one statutory notice was obtained, but this was deferred when plans for full scale modernisation were received.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 1957

Reported as unfit (section 16)	...	...	21
Demolition Orders made	...	...	3
Closing Orders made	...	...	5
Formal undertakings accepted	...	...	15
Demolished	...	...	8
Reconditioned)	...	...	13 from 19
(1 conversion 4 into 1 and three conversions 2 into 1)			

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Department continued to work closely with the Engineer and Surveyor's Department on the assessment of all applications for improvement grants concentrating on overall fitness standards. Grant works approved and completed during the year were as follows:

	Approved		Completed	
	Owner/occupied	Tenanted	Owner/occupied	Tenanted
Discretionary	36	7	15	3
Standard	10	6	8	8

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Fifty-eight applications by landlords for Qualification Certificates were received and 2 were issued. Of the remainder, 53 were still to be dealt with at the end of the year (all from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority) and 2 were deferred to give landlords the opportunity to carry out repairs. One application became void when the tenant vacated.

One preliminary certificate was issued in advance of improvement works as a means of enabling landlord and tenant to obtain a provisional rent certificate from the rent officer.

In considering applications for these certificates the Council must be satisfied that the tenant has the exclusive use of all the standard amenities and that the property is fit for human habitation and is in good repair, having regard to its age, character and locality. Once the certificate is issued the landlord can then apply to the rent officer for the tenancy to be changed from a controlled to a regulated one and for the rent to be assessed. It was hoped that this new procedure would provide an incentive to landlords to bring their properties up to a higher standard, but the response can only be regarded as disappointing.

SELECTION OF TENANTS

One hundred and forty-five new dwellings were completed as follows:

- 6 x 2 B.R. O.P. bungalows at Beedon.
- 6 x 2 B.R. O.P. bungalows at Chaddleworth.
- 5 x 1 B.R. and 4 x 2 B.R. O.P. bungalows plus a 3 B.R. warden's bungalow at Blewbury.
- 2 x 2 B.R. O.P. bungalows, 10 x 2 B.R. flats and 11 x 3 B.R. houses at East Hanney.
- 16 x 1 B.R. flats, 36 x 2 B.R. flats and 48 x 3 B.R. houses at Harwell.

One hundred and sixty-eight applicants were rehoused (including 29 from unfit dwellings and 41 from caravans) and 65 transfers were effected.

Seventy-four applicants were visited in their homes.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Total number of properties inspected	...	...	...	167
Total number of visits	...	...	...	230

SUMMARY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PETROLEUM

Administration of the Act and Regulations governing the storage of petroleum spirit and mixtures continued and 80 premises were licensed at the end of the year.

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Number of properties inspected	...	...	...	21
Total number of inspections	...	...	...	31
Number of nuisances abated (excluding work done by septic tank emptier)	...	...	...	14
Number of conservancy closets replaced by water closets (including improvement grant work)	...	...	...	16

OTHER NUISANCES

Animals	...	...	...	Inspections	...	11
				Nuisances abated		4
Filthy premises and problem families				Inspections	...	29
				Nuisances abated		4
Ditches and streams	...	...	...	Inspections	...	3
				Nuisances abated		0
Smoke, grit and dust	...	...	...	Inspections	...	8
				Nuisances abated		4
					(3 bonfires)	
Noise	...	...	...	Inspections	...	10
				Nuisances abated		6

Excessive noise from a grain drier situated in the centre of a rural community again provided the biggest problem during the harvest season, and although some attenuation was achieved by means of baffle walls, complaints were still received. Eventually it was decided to commission a consultant to advise on further improvements, and at the end of this year this policy was being pursued. The noise-measuring instrument proved useful, particularly in proving the inadequacy of insulation in a pair of the industrialised houses at Harwell.

Total number of inspections made by Public Health						
Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	1537

(These figures do not include work carried out by the pest officer, rodent operator and cleansing staff which is set out under seperate headings.)

DETAILS OF HOUSING POPULATION, SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLIES IN PARISH ORDER

Parish	Area in acres	††Estimated population	Occupied dwellings		Total
			Private	Council	
Aldworth	1866	201	54	16	70
Ardington	2693	336	126	—	126
Beedon	2096	391	111	40	151
Blewbury	4246	1523	432†	80	512
Brightwalton	2054	279	98	15	113
Catmore	710	37	11	—	11
Chaddleworth	3400	461	119	57	176
Challow, East	1657	920	210	90	300
Challow, West	1070	181	47	21	68
Childrey	2929	471	117	41	158
Chilton	1448	884	268	41	309
Compton	3803	1338	344	105	449
Denchworth	1041	169	52	10	62
Farnborough	1886	83	34	4	38
Fawley	2190	177	45	5	50
Goosey	968	149	41	10	51
Grove	2513	4044	1220†	168	1388
Hampstead Norris	4490	731	190	64	254
Hanney, East	2200	759	189	67	256
Hanney, West	1333	456	138	27	165
Harwell	2503	2774	636†	185	821
Hendred, East	3198	1325	355	107	462
Hendred, West	2002	302	87	27	114
Ilstley, East	3017	460	107	40	147
Ilstley, West	3037	307	97	17	114
Letcombe Bassett	1631	203	50	15	65
Letcombe Regis	2155	550	146	49	195
Lockinge	3763	254	77	—	77
Peasemore	2049	203	61	12	73
Sparsholt	3329	287	75	29	104
Upton	1413	395	105	24	129
Totals	72,690	20,650	5,642	1,366	7,008

† These figures include caravans.

†† Registrar General's figures at 30th June, 1970.

WATER SUPPLIES

Sewerage	Mains water standpipes	Estate supplies Sources	dwellings	Private supplies Sources	dwellings
*	—	—	—	2	4
Yes	—	2	126	—	—
*	2	—	—	1	1
Yes	1	—	—	—	—
*	—	—	—	3	6
—	—	1	10	1	1
Yes (Part)	—	—	—	1	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	2	2
Yes	—	3	20	4	4
*	4	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	1	16	—	—
*	—	—	—	1	3
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	3	36	3	5
Yes	2	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	5	14
*	3	2	10	—	—
Yes	—	1	8	1	4
Yes	—	1	7	—	—
*	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	2	—	—	3	4
Yes	—	1	77	—	—
*	—	—	—	3	5
*	—	—	—	—	—
Yes	—	—	—	—	—
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	16	15	310	31	57

These figures are compiled from the best available information and cannot be regarded as completely accurate.

* Small disposal works in existence for serving Council Houses only.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART ONE OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on register	Inspections	Number of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	6	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	3	—	—
Total	42	10	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Number of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):
Making, etc., of wearing apparel — 1.

June 1971.

WATER SUPPLIES IN THE COMBINED DISTRICT

During 1970 the supply to the area was provided by the sources listed and a new water tower at Aldworth was commissioned to replace the tank at Bower Farm.

Samples as listed below were collected throughout the year:

SOURCE WORKS

Aston Tirrold 44, Blewbury 71, Brightwalton 45, Childrey Warren 99, Cholsey 48, Compton 47, Upton 15, Wallingford 71, Wantage 50, West Hendred 78.—Total 568.

STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION

Aldworth Tower 4, Bower Farm Tank 1, Aston Tirrold Res. 1, Blewbury Res. 2, Brightwalton Tower 2, Chain Hill Res. 2, Churn Hill Res. 3, Farnborough Tower 5, Gramps Hill Res. 2, Hackpen Hill Res. 2, Hagbourne (Old and New Res.) 9, Hanney Tower 3, Hendred Res. 2, Hill Barn Res. 2, Milton Res. 4, Milton Hill Res. 1, Milton Tower 6, Moulsoford Res. 2, Stanmore Res. 2, Steventon Res. 4, Wallingford Tower 2, Tap and Dist. System 72.—Total, 133.

In all, therefore, 701 samples were examined.

Of the 292 raw waters, 38 showed some contamination due to the presence of coliform organisms, while of the 276 final water, 7 fell a little below the highest standard.

Chemical analyses of major sources are given in the following table, results being quoted in milligrams per litre. There is no significant level of natural fluoride in any of the sources providing a supply to the area.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLIES

	W'ford Rural Aston T.	W'ford	Wantage	Childrey Warren	Compton
Appearance	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright	Clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Nil	5	<5	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Nil	1.0	Nil	0.2	<0.5
Electrical Conduc- tivity @ 20° C ...	420	840	550	365	460
pH	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.8
Free carbon dioxide	16	—	—	—	7
Ammoniacal nitro- gen (N)	0.000	0.37	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid nitrogen (N)	0.010	0.02	0.010	0.008	0.008
Nitrite (N)	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Permanganate Value 4 hrs. at 27° C ...	0.07	0.17	0.18	0.08	0.06
Iron	<0.02	0.14	<0.01	<0.02	<0.01
Other Metals	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Carbonate Hardness CaCO ₃	200	310	275	185	208
Non Carbonate Hard- ness CaCO ₃	10	0	60	30	55
Total Hardness CaCO ₃	210	305	335	215	263
Chloride (Cl)	15.5	35.2	14.5	8.5	14.7
Nitrate (N)	4.1	4.3	3.6	3.3	8.7
Sulphate (SO ₄)	17	137	42	11	20.0
Calcium (Ca)	81.5	112.7	131.5	82	103.5
Magnesium (Mg) ...	1.5	6	1.5	2	1
Sodium (Na)	21.2	100	8.3	5.8	8
Potassium (K)	1.8	7.7	2.0	1.6	3.1
Silica (SiO ₂)	16	22	24	23	10.5
Phosphate (PO ₄)	0.04	0.15	<0.02	0.03	0.07
Natural Fluoride (F)	0.13	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1

Results quoted in parts per million < = less than

